

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SARA MARIANI,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
MERCEDES-BENZ USA LLC,  
Defendant.

Case No. 25-cv-03142-MMC

**PRETRIAL PREPARATION ORDER**

It is hereby **ORDERED** pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of this Court:

JURY TRIAL DATE: Monday, September 21, 2026 at 9:00 a.m., Courtroom 7, 19th floor.

TRIAL LENGTH is estimated to be 3 to 7 days.

DISCOVERY PLAN: Per Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Local Rules, subject to any provisions below.

NON-EXPERT DISCOVERY CUTOFF: March 27, 2026.

DESIGNATION OF EXPERTS:

Plaintiff/Defendant: No later than April 8, 2026.

Plaintiff/Defendant: Rebuttal no later than April 29, 2026.

Parties shall conform to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2).

EXPERT DISCOVERY CUTOFF: May 22, 2026.

DISCOVERY MATTERS, unless otherwise ordered, will be referred to a Magistrate Judge.

DEADLINE TO AMEND PLEADINGS: August 4, 2025.

DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS shall be filed no later than June 19, 2026, and shall be noticed for hearing 35 days thereafter.

PRETRIAL CONFERENCE DATE: September 8, 2026 at **10:00 a.m.**

**COUNSEL WHO INTEND TO TRY THE CASE MUST ATTEND THE PRETRIAL CONFERENCE.** Counsel shall be prepared to discuss all aspects of the case, including settlement. Pretrial shall conform to the attached instructions.

MEET AND CONFER (Civil L.R. 16-10(b)(5)): Lead trial counsel shall meet and confer no later than August 3, 2026.

FURTHER STATUS CONFERENCE: Friday, June 5, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

FURTHER STATUS CONFERENCE STATEMENT DUE: Friday, May 29, 2026.

ADDITIONAL ORDERS:

Case referred to Private Mediation by agreement of the parties – to be conducted in early June 2026.

See attached Pretrial Instructions.

PLAINTIFF IS ORDERED TO SERVE A COPY OF THIS ORDER ON ANY PARTY SUBSEQUENTLY JOINED IN THIS ACTION.

Dated: July 18, 2025

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MAXINE M. CHESNEY  
United States District Judge

(Revised 05/2024)

## PRETRIAL INSTRUCTIONS

In advance of complying with the following pretrial requirements, for the purpose of preparing for the Pretrial Conference and to discuss settlement, counsel SHALL meet and confer in good faith and no later than the meet and confer deadline set forth in the attached order.

**A. PRETRIAL STATEMENT:** No later than ten court days before the scheduled Pretrial Conference, the parties shall file a joint Pretrial Statement which shall set forth:

1. The substance of the action;
2. The relief claimed, including the particular elements of the damages claimed;
3. The factual issues remaining, as well as any stipulations of fact;
4. The legal issues, including a concise statement of each disputed point of law concerning liability or relief and citing supporting statutory and case law;
5. A current estimate as to the length of the trial;
6. The status of the case with respect to alternative dispute resolution.
7. A list of witnesses likely to be called at trial. Expert witnesses shall be listed separately. Witnesses not included on the list may be excluded from testifying.

**B. JURY INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Joint Set of Agreed Upon Instructions: The parties shall jointly prepare a set of agreed upon jury instructions, which shall be filed ten court days prior to the Pretrial Conference.

2. Separate Instructions: Separate instructions may be submitted only as to those instructions upon which the parties cannot agree. Each separate instruction shall note on its face the identity of the party submitting such instruction. Separate instructions shall be filed ten court days prior to the Pretrial Conference.

No later than ten court days prior to the Pretrial Conference, the party or parties objecting to an instruction shall file a written objection to such instruction. The form of the objection shall be as follows:

- (a) Set forth in full the instruction to which the objection is made;
- (b) Provide concise argument and citations to authority explaining why the opposing party's instruction is improper; and
- (c) Set forth in full an alternative instruction, if any.

3. **Substance and Format of Instructions:** The instructions shall cover all substantive issues. Proposed instructions shall be consecutively numbered. Each proposed instruction shall be typed in full on a separate page and cover only one subject, to be indicated in the title. Citations to the authorities upon which the instruction is based shall be included. Instructions shall be brief, clear, written in plain English and free of argument. Pattern or form instructions shall be revised to address the particular facts and issues of the case.

**C. VOIR DIRE AND VERDICT FORMS:** No later than ten court days prior to the Pretrial Conference each party shall serve and file proposed questions for jury voir dire and a proposed form of verdict.

**D. EXHIBITS:**

1. **Copies of Exhibits for Other Parties:** No later than ten court days prior to the Pretrial Conference, each party shall provide every other party with one set of all proposed exhibits, charts, schedules, summaries, diagrams and other similar documentary materials to be used in its case in chief at trial, together with a complete list (**see attached form**) of all such proposed exhibits. Voluminous exhibits shall be reduced by elimination of irrelevant portions or through the use of summaries. Each item shall be pre-marked with an exhibit sticker (**see attached form**), plaintiff's exhibits with numbers, defendant's exhibits with letters or with numbers sequenced to begin after plaintiff's exhibit numbers. If there are numerous exhibits, they should be provided in three-ring binders with marked tab separators. All exhibits which have not been provided as required are subject to exclusion.

2. **Stipulations Re: Admissibility:** Prior to the Pretrial Conference, the parties shall make a good faith effort to stipulate exhibits into evidence and be prepared to place their admission on the record at the Pretrial Conference. If stipulation to admission in evidence is not possible, the parties shall make every effort to stipulate to authenticity and foundation absent a legitimate (not tactical) objection.

3. **Copies of Exhibits for the Court:** One set of exhibits shall be provided to the Court on the first day of trial. Each set shall be in binders, tabbed and indexed.

4. **Disposition of Exhibits after Trial:** Upon the conclusion of the trial, each party shall file its exhibits in accordance with Civil Local Rule 5-1(g).

**F. WITNESSES:**

1. **Jury Trials:** The Pretrial Conference Statement shall include a list of witnesses likely to be called at trial, other than solely for impeachment or rebuttal. Expert witnesses shall be listed separately. Witnesses not included on the list may be excluded from testifying.

2. Non-Jury Trials: Each party shall include as an exhibit to the Pretrial Conference Statement a list comprising a brief outline of the proposed direct testimony of each witness under that party's control.

**G. MOTIONS IN LIMINE:** Motions in limine are limited to motions to exclude specific items of evidence (i.e., specific testimony or exhibits) on a ground and upon such authority as would be sufficient to sustain an objection to such evidence at trial.

1. Motions in limine shall be filed and served no later than ten court days prior to the date set for the Pretrial Conference. Any party opposing such a motion in limine shall file and serve its opposition papers no later than five court days prior to the Pretrial Conference. No reply papers will be considered.

2. Each motion in limine and each opposition thereto, shall be individually numbered and filed as a separate document.

**H. LIST OF EXHIBITS WITH STIPULATIONS AND OBJECTIONS:** No later than one court day prior to the Pretrial Conference the parties shall file with the Court a list of all exhibits admitted by stipulation; and a list of all exhibits as to which objections have been made, with a brief notation indicating which party objects and for what reason.

## **I. OTHER PRETRIAL MATTERS**

1. Settlement Conferences - Any party utilizing another form of Alternative Dispute Resolution who wishes to arrange a settlement conference before a judge or magistrate judge thereafter may do so by contacting the Courtroom Deputy.

2. Daily Transcripts - If transcripts will be requested during or immediately after trial, arrangements must be made with the court reporter at least one week before trial commences.

Attachments

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CASE NO. C -

MMC

DATE:

V. \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Plaintiff

( ) Defendant

Case No. _____ <b>PLTF Exhibit No.</b> _____ 1 Date Admitted _____ Signature _____	Case No. _____ <b>DEFT Exhibit No.</b> _____ A _____ Date Admitted _____ Signature _____
Case No. _____ <b>PLTF Exhibit No.</b> _____ 2 Date Admitted _____ Signature _____	Case No. _____ <b>DEFT Exhibit No.</b> _____ B _____ Date Admitted _____ Signature _____
Case No. _____ <b>PLTF Exhibit No.</b> _____ 3 Date Admitted _____ Signature _____	Case No. _____ <b>DEFT Exhibit No.</b> _____ C _____ Date Admitted _____ Signature _____
Case No. _____ <b>PLTF Exhibit No.</b> _____ 4 Date Admitted _____ Signature _____	Case No. _____ <b>DEFT Exhibit No.</b> _____ D _____ Date Admitted _____ Signature _____
Case No. _____ <b>PLTF Exhibit No.</b> _____ 5 Date Admitted _____ Signature _____	Case No. _____ <b>DEFT Exhibit No.</b> _____ E _____ Date Admitted _____ Signature _____
Case No. _____ <b>PLTF Exhibit No.</b> _____ 6 Date Admitted _____ Signature _____	Case No. _____ <b>DEFT Exhibit No.</b> _____ F _____ Date Admitted _____ Signature _____